BARACK OBAMA QUOTES Final - 2012

In this country no child's destiny should be determined before he takes his first step--his future confined to the neighborhood in which he was born. Our government cannot guarantee success and happiness in life, but as a nation we can ensure that every American who wants to work is prepared to work, able to find a job, and able to stay out of poverty—that opportunity exists not just for those with the most money and influence, but for every American who's willing to work.

While Martin Luther King lived, he was reviled at least as much as he was celebrated. He endured arrest, prison, and constant threats to his life until he finally inspired a nation to transform itself and begin to live up to the meaning of its creed.

The path to a more perfect union means acknowledging that what ails the African American community does not just exist in the minds of black people; that the legacy of discrimination and current incidents of discrimination—while less overt than in the past—are real and must be addressed.

I trust the American people's desire no longer to be defined by our differences. While we may have different stories, we hold common hopes. We may not look the same or come from the same place, but we want to move in the same direction—towards a better future for our children and our grandchildren.